

Multiple Forms of Enzymes

Edited by D. Scheuch, R.J. Haschen and E. Hofmann

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This volume contains papers presented at the First Leonor Michaelis Symposium on Multiple Forms of Enzymes, held in Weimar in November 1980. Twenty-six papers are included, and it must be admitted that the value and immediacy of some of them have suffered from the long delays which seem inevitable in the publication of conference proceedings, and which in this case may have been increased by the complexities of publication both in the host country and in western Europe. Some authors will have seen their recorded statements already amplified and extended by the work of their own laboratories; as for example is the case for the review of some mechanisms of post-translational modification of enzymes by J.C. Dreyfus and colleagues. Nevertheless, much of this and other reports is of permanent value, and the volume has the additional advantage of bringing together authors from almost all the countries of Europe.

Many of the papers deal with isoenzyme systems of diagnostic importance: three papers on α -

amylase testify to the continuing feeling amongst diagnostic enzymologists that this enzyme system can be made to yield clinically valuable information in such difficult diagnostic areas as sub-clinical pancreatic disease, if analytical methods of appropriate sensitivity and specificity can be developed. Other clinically-related applications of isoenzymes which are discussed in the present volume include the familiar ones of the investigation of liver disease, muscular dystrophy, and specific and general aspects of malignant disease. However, it would be misleading to attempt to discern themes connecting what are, in most cases, unrelated reviews and reports of research in progress on particular isoenzyme systems.

The volume opens with a short but interesting account by D.W. Scheuch of the life of Leonor Michaelis, whose name is in almost daily use by enzymologists, but who nevertheless remains a somewhat shadowy figure.

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